METHODOLOGY

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Contents

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Centre for Thriving Places

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Everyone deserves to live in a place where they can thrive. CTP's multidisciplinary teams provide expert guidance, insight, practical tools and bespoke support to transform how places work so they fulfil their potential and deliver greater wellbeing for all.

Our team

Data gathering

Data acknowledgements

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Understanding Society Survey

The neighbourhood trust, organisation membership, safety at dark, volunteering and digital exclusion indicators were produced using data from the Understanding Society Survey. Understanding Society is an initiative funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and various Government Departments, with scientific leadership by the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, and survey delivery by NatCen Social Research and Kantar Public. The research data are distributed by the UK Data Service. Fieldwork for the web survey was carried out by Ipsos MORI and for the telephone survey by Kantar.

University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2023). Understanding Society: Waves 1-13, 2009-2022 and Harmonised BHPS: Waves 1-18, 1991-2009: Special Licence Access, Local Authority District. [data collection]. 15th Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 6666, DOI: http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-6666-15 Copyright: Economic and Social Research Council.

Tree cover

Currently the best estimates of total tree cover across all local authorities in England and Wales is produced by TerraSulis. This data is published by Friends of the Earth with the following information: "The tree canopy area is derived from Environment Agency National LiDAR Programme data with gaps filled by Forestry Commission National Forest Inventory 2020 data at 1m spatial resolution. Tree canopy algorithm development and data processing were done by Terra Sulis Research CIC on behalf of Friends of the Earth, 2022."

Social Fragmentation Index (SFI)

The social fragmentation index was calculated based on a methodology developed by Sir Peter Congdon, Queen Mary University.
Congdon, P (1996) The incidence of suicide and parasuicide: a small area study, Urban Studies, 33, 137 – 158.
Congdon combined four components to create the index: % living alone; % living as a couple; % privately renting; and % who have moved home in the last year.

Acronyms

LA = Local authority

ONS = Office for National Statistics

RSA = Royal Society for arts, manufactures and commerce

TPI = Thriving Places Index

USS = Understanding Society Survey

1. GENERAL METHODOLOGY

1.1. Selecting indicators

Each year we review the indicators used in the TPI. Where previously used indicators are still available and still suitable they are retained in order to maximise the ability to track change over time. However, each year some new indicators are selected in order to:
- Replace indicators that are no longer suitable
- Add new indicators for gaps that could not previously be filled
- Drop indicators that are no longer suitable if a replacement cannot be found

We first and foremost search for new indicators on the Office for National Statistics, gov.uk, and Fingertips websites.

The following criteria are used in the selection of indicators:
1. Timeliness - More recent data is favoured.
2. Frequency - Datasets that are regularly updated are favoured.
3. Reputability - We look for data from reputable sources such as the Office for National Statistics, government departments, and Fingertips. Otherwise we interrogate the methodology used more carefully.
4. Availability - Data must be available for the vast majority of upper-tier LAs. We favour data that is also available for second-tier LAs and available for Welsh LAs.
5. Public - We favour datasets that are available to the public. We make exceptions only if an indicator is needed to fill a gap in the TPI framework that can only be filled by using data that is not published for public use.

1.2. Modifying the TPI framework

The TPI framework itself is occasionally modified when new subdomains or domains are able to be added due to new evidence being available about different drivers of wellbeing, or new or more relevant local data is available. This is particularly true for the sustainability and equality elements as we continue to develop these and more relevant datasets become available. See section 2.3 for further information about the most recent changes.

1.3. Data gathering

The process of gathering raw data for the TPI is different depending on the type or status of the indicator. There are 5 types:

New: An indicator that is new to the current iteration of the TPI. I.e. it was not in the TPI the previous year.
Replacement: An indicator that is new to the current iteration of the TPI, but has replaced an indicator that was in the TPI the previous year.
Updated: An indicator that was in the TPI the previous year and is also included in the current iteration. New data is available so the indicator values are updated in the dataset.
Same as last year: An indicator that was in the TPI the previous year and is also included in the current iteration. There is no new data
Dropped: An indicator that was in the TPI the previous year, and is not in the current iteration.

For new, replacement, and updated indicators:
Raw data is obtained from the sources used, such as the ONS website.

For indicators that are the same as last year:
As these indicators cannot be updated, the raw values are simply copied over from the previous version of the index. The average for England and standard deviation used for standardisation (see ‘standardising the raw values’) are also copied from the previous version of the index.

1.4. Calculating indicator values

1.4.1. Raw TPI values

Some indicator values are ready 'off-the-shelf' from the data source. This is true for many of the indicators we use, such as most of those from the Fingertips public health indicators.

In some cases, we perform calculations to derive the values that form our raw dataset. The types of calculations carried out include:
- Standardising the data to make it comparable between local authorities (e.g. calculate a value per 1000 residents).

- (Thriving Places England only) Deriving values for upper tier local authorities where the data was provided at district local authority level only. We took weighted averages to aggregate the data to the upper tier local authority level.
- Basic bespoke calculation. For example, from Understanding Society Survey data, we were able to calculate the percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that they felt a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood. See the separate indicator calculations document for a full description of these calculations.

1.4.2. Standardising the raw values

After gathering data for all indicators, we standardised the raw values by transforming them to z-scores using the following formula, so that all indicator values had a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1:

$$z_{ij} = \frac{raw_{ij} - \overline{raw_i}}{SD_i}$$

(raw value - national mean) / (standard deviation between upper tier LAs across England)

Where necessary indicator values were reversed so that all positive z-scores indicate values that are better than average.

Calculating z-scores allows us to compare a local authority's performance on two indicators even if they are measured on different scales. If a local authority scores -1.0 on one indicator, and -2.0 on another, this means that it is 1 standard deviation below the English mean for the former, but 2 standard deviations below the mean for the latter – indicating that the second indicator may be more of a priority for the local authority.

Note that upper tier and district values are held in separate datasets. The mean and standard deviation for upper tier local authorities is used for standardising both data sets.

1.4.3. Capping the standardised values

To avoid extreme values affecting the overall spread of scores on the scorecards, we then capped the z-scores at -5 and +5, so that z-scores below -5 become -5, and scores above 5 become 5.

1.5. Calculating the TPI scores

1.5.1. Combining indicators

To calculate sub-domain values, we averaged the z-scores for indicators within each sub-domain.
To calculate Local Conditions domain values, we averaged the sub-domain values within each domain.
To calculate Local Conditions headline element values, we averaged the domain values within Local Conditions.
To calculate Sustainability and Equality headline element values, we averaged the domain values within each headline element.

1.5.2. Re-scaling

To make the scores easier to interpret, we rescale the sub-domain, domain and headline element values to fall on a 0-10 scale, with 5 representing the average national score for the current year. We do this using the following formula:

$$Recalibrated_{ij} = z_{ij} + 5$$

Scores are also capped at 0 and 10, so that scores below 0 become 0 and scores above 10 become 10.
The formula was designed purely to ensure a reasonable spread of scores between 0 and 10. With this formula, any variation beyond 3 standard deviations away from the mean is ignored. So, for example a LA which has a z-score of 3.1 on a particular domain would get 10/10, as would a local authority which had a z-score of 7.1. For example in 2019, out of the 9446 subdomain scores for the 150 local authorities, only 138 z-scores fell beyond the ±3 range, and were therefore capped.

1.5.3. Presentation of scores

As well as calculating 0-10 scores, we also use a colour scheme for presenting scores:

Low		Medium		High
<3.5	3.5-4.5	4.5-5.5	5.5-6.5	>6.5
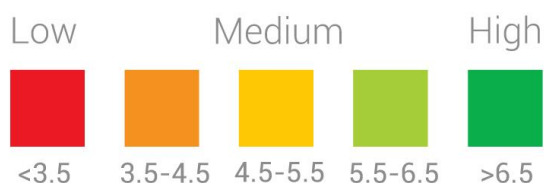
1.6. Data checking

Indicator values of 0 are checked to verify that they are true zeroes and not a missing value that has been incorrectly formatted. Missing values are also checked to verify that they should be missing.
Calculations for any brand new or updated indicators are checked independently by two data analysts.
The final dataset is then sense checked.

1.7. Missing data

There are few missing data points in the TPI dataset as complete data is one of our criteria for selecting indicators. However, occasionally an indicator has a small number of missing data points. As there is a small proportion of missing data points we do not employ any data imputation techniques.

Missing data is more of an issue for districts than upper tier local authorities. As districts are smaller, data is more likely to be suppressed.

See notes and cautions (section 2.6) for details on which indicators have missing data points.

1.8. TPI Wales

Up until 2022, Data Cymru calculated the Thriving Places Wales using the same general methodology covered here. See the Thriving Places Wales website for further information: www.thrivingplaces.wales. Individual indicator availability may vary between England and Wales, thus the English and Welsh TPIs are distinct indices and not directly comparable with each other. A Thriving Places Index for Wales is not currently available after 2022.

1.9. Further information

If you have any further questions about the TPI methodology, please email us at: tpi@centreforthrivingplaces.org

2. CHANGES IN THE TPI 2024

This section covers TPI methodology specific to the TPI 2024. General methodology is covered in [section 1.](#)

2.1. Geographical scope

The Thriving Places Index 2024 provides scores for 331 Local Authorities (LAs) in England. 150 of these are upper tier LAs, including unitary and two-tier LAs. 181 of these are district, second-tier LAs. Isles of Scilly and City of London are excluded as most data is unavailable for these small *sui generis* local authorities.

2.2. Changes to local authorities

2.2.1. Description of changes as of April 2019

There were three sets of changes to the structure of local authorities made as of April 2019. Firstly, five of the six districts in Dorset county were combined to form a new Unitary Authority (UA): Dorset UA. The remaining district - Christchurch - was combined with the two pre-existing urban UAs within the county - Bournemouth and Poole - to produce a single new UA: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole UA (abbreviated on the TPI website to Bournem., Christch. and Poole).

Secondly, four former districts in Suffolk were combined into two larger districts - Suffolk Coastal and Waveney became East Suffolk, and Forest Heath and St. Edmundsbury became West Suffolk. The changes reduced the number of districts in the Suffolk two-tier LA from seven to five.
Lastly, two former districts in the Somerset two-tier LA - Taunton Deane and West Somerset were combined into one larger district - Somerset West and Taunton. This change reduced the number of districts in Somerset from five to four.

The changes are summarised in the tables below.

Pre-April 2019

Upper-tier	District
Bournemouth Poole Dorset (two-tier LA)	Christchurch East Dorset North Dorset Purbeck West Dorset Weymouth and Portland

Post April-2019 (TPI 2020 onwards)

Tier	LA	Comment
Upper	Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole	Replaces the now defunct Bournemouth and Christchurch upper-tier Local Authorities, and Christchurch district.
Upper	Dorset	Replaces the now defunct districts: East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland.
Upper	Somerset West and Taunton	Replaces the now defunct districts West Somerset and Taunton Deane.
District	East Suffolk	Replaces the now defunct districts: Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.
District	West Suffolk	Replaces the now defunct districts: Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.

2.2.2. Description of changes as of April 2020

One further change occurred in April 2020 and is therefore reflected in the TPI 2021 but, unlike the changes mentioned in section 2.2.1, not the TPI 2020. Buckinghamshire unitary Local Authority was created in April 2020 and covers the same areas as the previous Buckinghamshire county (upper tier) and the four lower tier districts that comprised it: Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe.

Pre-April 2020

Upper-tier	District
Buckinghamshire (county)	Aylesbury Vale Chiltern South Bucks Wycombe

Post April-2019 (TPI 2020 onwards)

All the above now replaced by the single-tier Buckinghamshire unitary LA

2.2.3 Description of changes as of April 2021

A further change occurred in April 2021 and is reflected in the TPI 2024. The upper-tier Northamptonshire (county) LA was abolished, as were the seven districts that comprised it. All of these were replaced by two new unitary authorities as shown in the tables below.

Pre-April 2021

Upper-tier	District
Northamptonshire	Corby Daventry East Northamptonshire Kettering Northampton South Northamptonshire Wellingborough

Post April-2021 (TPI 2024 onwards)

Tier	LA	Comment
Upper	North Northamptonshire	Replaces the now defunct Northamptonshire LA and these districts: Corby East Northamptonshire Kettering Wellingborough

Upper	West Northamptonshire	Replaces the now defunct Northamptonshire LA and these districts: Daventry Northampton South Northamptonshire

2.2.4 Description of changes as of April 2023

On April 1, 2023, the non-metropolitan county of Cumbria and its six districts were abolished and replaced by two unitary authorities: Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness (see below for relevant districts that have been abolished). Additionally, on April 1, 2023, a new unitary authority, North Yorkshire Council, replaced North Yorkshire County Council and its non-metropolitan districts (see below). Lastly, on April 1, 2023, a new unitary authority, Somerset Council, replaced Somerset County Council and its non-metropolitan districts (see below).

Pre-April 2023

Upper-tier	District
Cumbria	Allerdale Barrow-in-Furness Carlisle Copeland Eden South Lakeland
North Yorkshire	Craven Hambleton Harrogate Richmondshire Ryedale Scarborough Selby
Somerset	Mendip Sedgemoor Somerset West and Taunton South Somerset

Post-April 2023 (NOT reflected in TPI 2024)

Tier	LA	Comment
Upper (single)	Cumberland	Replaces the now defunct Cumbria LA and these districts: Allerdale, Carlisle, and Copeland
Upper (single)	Westmorland and Furness	Replaces the now defunct Cumbria LA and these districts: Barrow-in-Furness, Eden, and South Lakeland
Upper (single)	North Yorkshire	Replaces North Yorkshire County Council and its districts (listed above).
Upper (single)	Somerset	Replaces Somerset County Council and its districts (listed above).

2.2.5 Implications for the TPI

The TPI 2024 uses the post-April 2021 LA structure. Given that some of the indicator data is from pre-April 2021, some indicator values for new post-April 2021 LAs were calculated by combining data for defunct LAs - for example aggregating data from the old districts to calculate a value for the new district. Such aggregation was always conducted with consideration of the denominator used for the indicator in question. This usually involved taking a weighted average of the district values, weighting them based on their overall population, although there were some exceptions where the denominator was not a population. This approach was also used to calculate a weighted average of the values for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness to obtain a value for Cumbria where data sources had already switched to the post-April 2023 LAs.

Furthermore, data was not available for all indicators used in the Upper Tier data set for Christchurch, as it was previously a district (and several indicators are only available for Upper Tier LAs). Where Christchurch data was not available, we omitted Christchurch from the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole UA and used the old Dorset council values (which included Christchurch) for the new Dorset UA. Where this had to be done, there will of course be small errors. Given that Christchurch only represents around 12% of the population of

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, and only 11% of the former Dorset County, this is unlikely to have had a major effect on results.

Finally, the timing of the changes in Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset means they are not reflected in the TPI 2024; scores for the now-defunct LAs are available on the TPI webpages, albeit with a higher proportion of missing data than we would like. If scores for the new unitary LAs (Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness) are required, please email us at tpi@centreforthrivingplaces.org.

2.3. Changes to the TPI Framework

A number of changes have been made to the Sustainability and Equality elements for 2024. The Sustainability element used to include eight indicators grouped into three domains: Energy Use, Waste and Green Infrastructure. It now includes those eight indicators plus one additional one, grouped into four domains as shown below.

Energy & Carbon	C02 Emissions - Per Capita; Within LA Scope
	Domestic Energy Consumption - Per Capita
	Housing Energy Efficiency Ratings
	Renewable Electricity Generation - Per Capita
Waste & Circularity	Household Waste - Per Capita
	Household Recycling
Ecosystem Health	Non-Developed Land Loss
	Tree Cover
Human-Environment Connection	Engagement with Natural Environment - Adults

The domain structure has been updated to reflect evolving understanding about human impacts on environmental sustainability and actual and expected improvements in data availability in relation to these impacts.

The Equality element used to consist of five indicators sitting in five domains: Health, Income, Gender, Social and Ethnicity. It now includes these five indicators plus an additional seven indicators, grouped into five domains as shown below.

Gender	Gender Pay Gap
Ethnicity & Religion	BAME Representation - Local Councillors
	Employment Inequality - Ethnicity
Disability	Employment Inequality - Learning Disability
	Employment Inequality - Long Term Health Condition
	Educational Inequality (Key Stage 4) - SEN Pupils
Socio-Economic	Health Inequality by Deprivation
	Wage Inequality - Full-Time Workers
	Social Mobility - Free School Meals Eligible
	Educational Inequality (Key Stage 4) - Disadvantaged Pupils
	School Readiness - Free School Meals Eligible
Age	Not in Education, Work or Training - Age 16-17

The domain structure has been changed to include more of the groups that can be affected by inequalities in the drivers of wellbeing. However, it is hoped that improved data availability in the future will enable this section to be further refined.

Furthermore, there have been minor changes to the text of the domain, subdomain and indicator names as well as the indicator descriptions. Unless noted below, these changes are purely to make them clearer and easier to

understand, rather than to signify changes to the ways that the underlying values are obtained or calculated.

2.4. Changes to the indicator set

You can download the complete TPI 2024 indicator list on the TPI pages at centeforthrvingplaces.org. The list includes a description for each indicator, the source of the data, the time period the indicator pertains to, and whether we performed further calculations to arrive at the final TPI indicator values.

Note that not all indicators are available at district level. Whether an indicator is available at district level is shown in the indicator list.

The following sections outline how the indicator set has changed in the TPI 2024 compared to the TPI 2022.

2.4.1. New indicators

16 new indicators have been added to the TPI in 2024.

Domain/ subdomain	Indicator	Description	Source	Rationale
Place & Environment/ Local Environment	Flood Risk - Properties	Percentage of properties with a greater than 1% annual risk of flooding from rivers or sea, taking into account local flood defences	National Audit Office	Additional indicator to cover the risk to local environmental wellbeing and homes
Mental & Physical Health/ Health & Risky Behaviours	Obesity/Over weight - Adults	Percentage of adults (aged 18 and over) classified as 'obese' or 'overweight'	Fingertips	Additional indicator to cover impact of obesity or being overweight on wellbeing
Education & Learning/ Adult Education	Adults with RQF3 or Above	Percentage of adults (aged 16-64) educated to RQF3 level or above	Nomis (Office for National Statistics)	Additional indicator to cover impact on wellbeing of higher levels of educational outcomes

Work & Local Economy/ Basic Needs	Fuel Poverty	Percentage of households that experience fuel poverty based on the "low income, low energy efficiency (LILEE)" methodology	Fingertips	Additional indicator to add to coverage of key threats to basic needs
People & Community/ Participation	No Internet Access/Use - Adults	Percentage of adults (aged 16 and over) who report having no access to the internet or never using it	Understanding Society Survey	Additional indicator to cover impact of digital exclusion
People & Community/ Culture	Participation in Arts - Adults	Percentage of adults (aged 16 and over) who didn't attend any arts event, in person, in the last 12 months (e.g., theatre, cinema, art exhibition, comedy, etc.)	Participation Survey	Additional indicator to add to coverage of culture
People & Community/ Culture	Participation in Libraries - Adults	Percentage of adults (aged 16 and over) who visited a public library building or mobile library, in person, in the last 12 months	Participation Survey	Additional indicator to add to coverage of culture
People & Community/Community Cohesion	Hub Businesses	Number of retail, hospitality and arts businesses in the area per 1,000 people	Office for National Statistics	Additional indicator to add to coverage of the conditions relating to community cohesion
Equality/ Ethnicity & Religion	Employment Inequality - Ethnicity	Difference in employment rates (among the working age population - aged 16-64) between those who feel they belong to a 'white' ethnic group and those who who feel they belong to another ethnic group	Nomis	Additional indicator to add to coverage of Ethnicity

		(including Black, Asian, Mixed and other ethnic groups)		
Equality/ Disability	Employment Inequality - Learning Disability	Gap in the employment rate between those who are in receipt of long term support for a learning disability (aged 18-64) and the overall employment rate (for 16-64)	Fingertips	New domain added for Disability. Select indicators have been added in 2024, pending wider review in 2025
Equality/ Disability	Employment Inequality - Long Term Health Condition	Gap in the employment rate (among the working age population - aged 16-64) between those with a physical or mental long term health condition and the overall employment rate	Fingertips	New domain added for Disability. Select indicators have been added in 2024, pending wider review in 2025
Equality/ Disability	Educational Inequality (Key Stage 4) - SEN Pupils	Difference in Attainment 8 scores between children with any identified special educational need (SEN) and those without any identified SEN	Department for Education	New domain added for Disability. Select indicators have been added in 2024, pending wider review in 2025
Equality/ Socio-Economic	Educational Inequality (Key Stage 4) - Disadvantaged Pupils	Gap in Attainment 8 score between children who are classified as disadvantaged (including being eligible for free school meals or being care experienced) and those who are not	Department for Education	Additional indicator to add to coverage of Socio-Economic Inequality
Equality/ Socio-Economic	School Readiness - Free School	Percentage of 5-year olds who are eligible for free school meals	Fingertips	Additional indicator to add to coverage of Socio-Economic

	Meals Eligible	who achieved a good level of development at the end of reception (as a percentage of all eligible children with free school meal status)		Inequality
Equality/ Age	Not in Education, Work or Training - Age 16-17	Estimated percentage of 16 to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training	Department for Education	New domain added for Age. Select indicators have been added in 2024, pending wider review in 2025
Sustainability/ Human-Environment Connection	Engagement with Natural Environment - Adults	Percentage of adults (aged 16 and over) that have visited 'green and natural spaces' in the past 2 weeks (modelled estimate)	People and Nature Survey	New domain added for Human-Environment Connection. Indicator added to reflect the impact of contact with nature on environmental values and behaviours

2.4.2. Dropped indicators

Domain/ subdomain	Indicator	Description	Source	Rationale
People & Community/Participation	Clubs and Societies	Combination of the following heritage index indicators: Youth archaeologist clubs, Nature Clubs for Kids, Civic societies.	RSA Heritage Index	This indicator captured only a narrow range of clubs and this is better captured by the Organisation Membership indicator.

2.4.3 Replaced indicators

Domain/ subdomain	Replacement indicator name	Replacement indicator description	Source	Details and rationale
Place & Environment/ Local Environment	Air Pollution - PM 2.5	Annual concentration of PM 2.5 (fine particulate matter) at an area level, adjusted to account for population exposure	Fingertips (unchanged)	The previous indicator attempted to measure only human-made PM 2.5 and this indicator measures all PM 2.5. The previous indicator is being phased out on Fingertips due to the unreliability of measuring the proportion of the pollution that is/isn't human-made.
Mental & Physical Health/ Mortality & Life Expectancy	Healthy Life Expectancy	Average number of years a newborn is expected to live in good health, based on current mortality rates and prevalence of self reported good health	Fingertips (unchanged)	Replacement for Life Expectancy. This measure focuses on the quality of life spent in a healthy state, rather than just the quantity of life.
People & Community/ Participation	Volunteering - Adults	Percentage of adults (aged 16 and over) who have volunteered with an organisation or charity at least once a month over the past year	Understanding Society Survey (formerly Active Lives Survey, Sport England)	The previous indicator measured volunteering in sport. This indicator captures a wider variety of volunteering activities and offers more robust estimates due to larger sample sizes.
People & Community/ Culture	Participation in Heritage	Percentage of adults (aged 16 and over) who visited a heritage site, in person, in the last 12 months	Participation Survey (formerly RSA Heritage Index)	The replacement indicator captures a greater variety of heritage sites.

2.5. New indicator calculations

Please see the TPI indicator calculations document that accompanies this Methodology for full details.

2.6. Indicator notes and cautions

This section includes notes and cautions pertaining to individual indicators in the TPI.

Access to Woodland
This indicator is drawn from a dataset of woodlands that is populated via a self-service portal by individual landowners. As such, it is an indicative rather than exhaustive record of accessible woodlands.

Exposure to Transport Related Noise
The data from Fingertips is modelled data - no actual noise measurements were made. Values are missing for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole UA for 2016. No values are available from the source for Bournemouth and Poole LAs (now defunct).

Car Travel – Per Capita
The data provider advises: "These figures are affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Take caution when interpreting these data and comparing them with other time periods."

Traffic Collision Rate
The data provider noted that there were "Recent unexpected issues with data collection from Avon and Somerset, and Staffordshire police. This means the completeness and accuracy of the recorded collisions in these two regions cannot be guaranteed as some collisions may be incomplete or missing."

Noise Complaints
Values for the six Worcestershire districts are missing from the source data: Worcester, Wychavon, Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills and Redditch. The value for Worthing and Adur has been combined at the data source so the same value is used for both local authorities.

First Time Youth Offenders

The values for Rutland, Bath and North East Somerset and Kingston upon Thames, are missing (suppressed).

Crime Severity Index
Many Community Safety Partnerships cover more than one local authority area. In these cases, the areas are assigned the same crime severity score. For some county local authorities, Police Force Area data was used. The values for all eight Devon districts were missing from the source data.

Domestic Abuse Rates
Many police force areas cover more than one local authority area. In these cases, the areas are assigned the same domestic abuse rate. The values for Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall and Devon are missing from the source data.

Perceived Safety After Dark - Adults
Values suppressed for LAs due to small sample sizes (below 50): Hartlepool, Rutland, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea.

Housing Affordability Ratio – Ownership
Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Homelessness Levels
Where data is missing for some quarters for some local authorities, the indicator value has been calculated using the remaining quarters. Values for upper-tier local authorities Halton and Hounslow are missing as there was no data available for any quarters.

Obesity/Overweight - Children (Year 6)
Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Conceptions in Under 18s
The value for Rutland was missing from the data source.

Eat 5-a-Day - Adults
The questions used in the Active Lives survey, from which this indicator is drawn, have changed from two separate questions about the number of fruit and vegetable portions eaten to one combined question. The data provider, Fingertips, advises that this change has led to a 20 percentage point decrease in values drawn from the combined question, rendering the current and future values incomparable with those used in the TPI 2022 and prior. Fingertips

advises: "Although the new estimates indicate significantly fewer people meeting the '5-a-day' recommendations, the ranking order across local authorities or inequality groups remains similar."

Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Preventable Mortality

Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Depression Prevalence - Adults

Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Severe Mental Illness - All Ages

NHS Digital have stated that changes in QOF during the pandemic mean that indicator data may be inaccurate for the 2020/21 reporting year, and comparisons with data from previous years and with 2022/23 (as used in TPI 2024) could be misleading. It is important that when using QOF indicators this caveat is acknowledged. For more information, please see NHS Digital, Quality and Outcomes Framework: https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/quality-and-outcomes-framework-achievement-prevalence-and-exceptions-data/2022-23/

Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Suicide Rate - Age 10+

Values for one upper-tier local authority (Rutland) and one district (Watford) are missing from the source data.

No Qualifications - Working Age Adults

Values for one upper-tier LA (Rutland) and 17 districts (Brentwood, Craven, Dartford, East Hampshire, Epsom and Ewell, Hertsmere, Maidstone, Maldon, North Hertfordshire, Rossendale, Rushmoor, South Hams, Uttlesford, Waverley, West Devon, Wyre and Wyre Forest) weren't provided by NOMIS due to disclosure rules (i.e. samples were too small).

Lifelong Learning - Working Age Adults

The value for one lower-tier district (Oadby and Wigston) is missing.

Apprenticeship Starts - Adults

Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Educational Attainment - Key stage 4
Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Unwillingly Out of Work
For some LAs, the proportion "economically inactive but want a job" value was missing. We imputed these by creating a regression model using the percentage economically active and percentage unemployed.

Good Jobs
Values for ten LAs and forty-eight lower-tier districts are missing.

Low Wage (FT) Workers
This indicator is calculated using the Annual Survey of Household Earnings (ASHE), which provides data on weekly pay at each decile across the income distribution for each local authority (and the first and fourth quartiles). To estimate the percentage in each local authority earning below the defined threshold (70% of UK median income), a best fit line is estimated for each local authority. For smaller local authorities, there is some missing data, with values not available at the highest and sometimes lowest deciles. We used as much data as was available, which included at a minimum seven data points.

Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Volunteering - Adults
Values suppressed due to small sample sizes (below 30): Rutland, Kensington and Chelsea.

Social and Interest Group Membership - Adults
For the TPI 2024, the methodology differed slightly from previous years in that USS variables 'orgm', 'orgmt' and 'orgmcawi' were combined to produce this indicator compared to solely using the one 'org' value in previous years. This was due to a change in the methods of interviewing that were used in the USS survey during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. 'Orgm' relates to face-to-face interviews, 'orgmt' relates to telephone interviews and 'orgmcawi' relates to web-based interviews, whereas the previous sole variable used, 'org' related to face-to-face interviews only. More information about this change can be found in

the USS documentation [here](). Four values suppressed due to small sample sizes (below 30): Hartlepool, Rutland, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea.

No Internet Access/Use - Adults
Four values suppressed due to small sample sizes (below 30): Hartlepool, Rutland, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea.

Participation in Arts - Adults
Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Participation in Libraries - Adults
Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Participation in Heritage - Adults
Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Heritage Assets
The RSA technical appendix notes that reporting of assets has improved so the asset scores may have gone up because of that, not because there are actually more assets. It is unclear whether this increase in reporting is evenly distributed, geographically.

Neighbourhood Belonging - Adults
Four values suppressed due to small sample sizes (below 30): Hartlepool, Rutland, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea.

Social Fragmentation Index
For the TPI 2021-2024, we recoded the components such that the index is *high* when the conditions for social fragmentation are low (so it is more a measure of conditions for social cohesion) - that means coding all the components negatively except for % living as a couple. For each component, for each local authority, a z-score was calculated based on the mean for England and standard deviation between local authorities. These z-scores were then averaged to produce the overall SFI. Data came from the Annual Population Survey. See further detail about this indicator in the [Data Acknowledgements]() section and also in the Indicator Calculations document that accompanies this Methodology.

Gender Pay Gap

Negative values are capped at zero, such that LAs with 'reverse' gender gaps (where women are paid more than men) are given the same score as LAs with no gender gap. Values for 2 districts (West Devon and Castle Point) are missing from the source data. Additionally, values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

BAME Representation - Local Councillors
The data published by Operation Black Vote is for single-tier local authorities only, excluding two-tier counties and their associated districts. We were unable to calculate this indicator for two-tier local authorities as the data is not available for these counties or the districts that comprise them.

Employment Inequality - Ethnicity
Values for three upper-tier LAs were missing from the data source: Redcar and Cleveland, Cornwall and Dorset.

Employment Inequality - Learning Disability
The value for one upper-tier LA (Hackney) was missing from the data source.

Health Inequality by Deprivation
The value for one local authority (Rutland) was missing from the data source.

Wage Inequality - Full Time Workers
This indicator is calculated using the Annual Survey of Household Earnings (ASHE), which provides data on weekly pay at each decile across the income distribution for each local authority (and the first and fourth quartiles). For LAs where the 80th percentile was not available, it was estimated using a logarithmic line of best fit. The 80th percentile was estimated using the 10th-75th percentiles, or the 10th-70th percentiles where the 75th percentile was not available. For LAs where the 70th percentile was not available, the 80th percentile was not estimated and hence the indicator value is missing for those LAs.

The value for two upper-tier local authorities are missing (Rutland and Kensington and Chelsea) from the data source, along with seven district values (West Devon, Rother, Brentwood, Maldon, Oadby and Wigston, Mole Valley and Adur). Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Social Mobility - Free School Meals Eligible
The value for one upper-tier LA (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) was missing from the data source.

Household Recycling and Household Waste - Per Capita
In the TPI 2021 the values for this indicator were calculated slightly differently using data from the same source as previous years.
From 2017/18, six local authorities started reporting as Somerset Waste Partnership. These are Somerset, Mendip, Sedgmoor, South Somerset, Taunton Deane, West Somerset. These LAs are assigned the same value for this indicator. Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are assigned the value for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Council. The value for Babergh district was missing from the data source.

Non-Developed Land Loss
Please note the following information from the data source: "Topographical changes are recorded by an image analysis (c.80,000 km of aerial imagery is captured per year), field surveying and data enhancement/cartography of boundaries or descriptive terms. Major developments and landscape changes are monitored every six months. Rural areas, urban improvement and minor changes are monitored by aerial photography, with areas revisited for image capture on a three-year cycle."

Tree Cover
In TPI 2019-2022, the tree cover data used was categorical, rather than a true percentage. However, the tree cover data provided by Friends of the Earth is now given as a percentage. Therefore the data for this indicator in TPI 2024 is not comparable to previous editions of the TPI.

Engagement with Natural Environment - Adults
Values for 17 defunct districts within Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset are missing because the data source has transitioned to the newer geographies only.

Personal Wellbeing: Happiness, Worthwhile, Life Satisfaction and Anxiety
Seven district values missing from the source data due to small sample sizes (West Devon, Runnymede, Maldon, Harlow, Epsom and Ewell, Burnley, Boston).

Further information

If you have any further questions about the Thriving Places Index methodology, please contact tpi@centreforthrivingplaces.org.